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LECTURE CXLI.

BALANCE-SHEET OF WINTER FIGHTING IN RUSSIA.

(*The Times*).

The Russian winter could not impose upon determined troops a lull in operations, but the melting snows of early spring have made a comparative slackening inevitable. The time is ripe for an attempt to assess the results of the winter campaign, which began with the opening of a great Russian counter-offensive in front of Stalingrad at the end of October.

The position then held by the enemy gave him hope of early and dazzling gains; so that it is permissible, in reckoning the value of the Russian recovery, to take into positive account the disappointment of expectations which were once, on the testimony of German witnesses themselves, believed by the enemy to be almost as good as realised. He has been completely thwarted in his attempt to establish himself on the Volga, and so cut the most permanent and essential of all supply lines of the Soviet Union. He was given no time to extract a barrel of oil from the wells he temporarily held; and, after a year's fighting, he is—apart from his precarious foothold in the Kuban—as far as ever from the copious supplies of oil which were the bait that tempted him to undertake the whole Caucasus expedition.

Besides the interception of the Volga traffic and control of the greatest fuel-bearing area in Europe, the two enterprises of summer sought another major objective—rest and recuperation in healthy winter quarters for armies that would have to face grimmer campaigns than ever in 1943. Of that expectation also the enemy has been deprived.

All these are real gains of the Russian counter-attacks, to be added in accounts to the long tale of casualties inflicted and territory set free. The former have been enormous, though the Russians too have suffered heavily. At the head

of the list of German losses stands the annihilation of an army of 300,000 men before Stalingrad, a disaster unparalleled in scale in the whole history of the war. Moreover, it may be held that for the Germans all losses are graver than for the Russians—first, because the Germans are nearer the end of their reserves of man-power and, secondly, because they know that they have to be prepared for war on several fronts in the coming year. In territory, Russian gains were at one time even more spectacular than those of the German advance last year, and, when the difficulties of winter are taken into account, much more remarkable.

At its moment of greatest triumph, advanced columns of the Soviet offensive were reaching out towards the angle of the Dnieper, threatening to cut that important waterway and the railways connected with it, and to hem in another group of the German armies against the shore of the Sea of Azov.

Since then we have seen a powerful German recoil. It has eliminated the threat of envelopment to the invading armies between the Donetz and the sea; and in so doing, it has cut off with considerable loss some of the advanced Russian columns by which the threat was being made. It has re-established the enemy's position along most of the line of the Donetz down to a point almost due north of Taganrog, whence the line then cuts across the country to strike the Sea of Azov practically where it ended a year ago. Above all, the counter-attacks inflicted on our allies a bitter disappointment in bringing back into subjection the city of Kharkov, which they had so recently liberated.

As far as mere occupation of territory goes, the armies on the southern front now stand in positions not so very different from those they occupied when the Germans launched their summer offensive in June last year. The enemy is perhaps rather better placed in front of Kharkov than he was then after the Russian attack of May. Against any slight advantage of ground that the year's fighting and expenditure of men may have brought him here, may be set the series of Russian gains on the more northerly parts of the front, of which the most important has been the raising of the siege of Leningrad. **To stand, as he does, no appreciably better off in territory than when he set out for the Volga and the Caucasus last year, is, in the enemy's present situation, equivalent to a heavy strategic defeat on the result of the whole period.**

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

3—4—43 to 9—4—43.

Russia.—The thaw is breaking up ice-bound rivers, rendering fighting difficult. Still local battles are being fought in order to secure points of advantage for a summer campaign, especially at five nerve centres—LENINGRAD, STARAYA RUSSA, SMOLENSK, OREL and the Donetz. Hence the Russian drive on SMOLENSK, the German attempt to cross the Donetz, now foiled

at IZYUM, and the Soviet thrust in the lower reaches of the KUBAN. In the last of these areas the Russians have captured ANASTASYEVSKAYA and BAKANSK, and have approached the gates of NOVOROSSISK.

The Soviet Information Bureau assesses the results of the winter campaign (4 months and 20 days) as follows :—

The Red Army advanced from 600 to 700 kilometres (380 to 440 miles) liberated 4,800 square kilometres of territory, captured 1,490 enemy aircraft, 4,670 tanks, 15,860 guns, 9,835 mortars, and 30,705 machine-guns. The Germans lost 850,000 men killed, 343,525 taken prisoner, 3,600 aircraft, 4,520 tanks and 4,500 guns.

Tunisia.—Continuing its advance north of GABES the Eighth Army has taken METOUIA and OUDREF, and reached what is known as the GABES GAP—the last post of defence for the enemy retreating down the 'Corridor'. Rommel is making a rear guard stand at WADI AKARAT, about 12 miles west of GABES, but it can only be a holding operation for the main forces to escape Here Montgomery is poised to strike. Advanced forces of the Eighth Army are now reported to be about 25 miles beyond GABES.

Down the road from EL-GUETTAR to GABES the Americans, in spite of Axis obstruction, are driving towards TENUSUS.

In the northern sector the TAMARA area is now virtually under Allied control. The First Army here, having taken SEDJANANE and CAPE SERRAT, is advancing further.

The Pacific.—(1) A Japanese convoy was attacked and a destroyer hit off FINSCHHAFEN.

(2) A Japanese destroyer was strafed and left burning off ALU Island in the SHORTLANDS.

(3) Seven Japanese planes were set on fire when they attacked the sea-plane base at FAISI in the SHORTLAND area.

(4) The Japanese made an unsuccessful raid on DARWIN.

(5) In an engagement on March 30, north-west of the GUADALCANAR area the Japanese lost 30 to 40 planes.

(6) Japanese shipping was bombed south of STEFFEN Strait in NEW IRELAND.

(7) A concentration of enemy shipping of 7 warships, and 5 merchantmen, totalling 26,000 tons was sunk or damaged off KAWIENG on April 2, 3 and 4.

(8) The following places were raided during the week :—LAE, SALAMUA, GASMATA, KISKA, VILA, KAHILI, HOLTZ BAY, MUNDA, MUBO, SOUMIAKI, KAVIENG, CAPE GLOUCESTER, ALEXISHAFEN, VILLA LAVIKA Island and BUKA.

China.—The Chinese have penetrated the Japanese defences round the city of HWAJUNG in HUNAN—at the eastern end of the Japanese line, south of the Yangtse, while heavy fighting continues on the south bank of the river.

Japanese thrusts from the Eastern SHAN STATES and south of the Burma Road are being held. Renewed Japanese raids are reported at several points, including CHUNGKING. 7 out of 9 Japanese planes were shot down when they attempted to attack an American air-field in KIANGSI Province.

Burma.—March 29. The R. A. F. attacked a Japanese-occupied position in the MAYU Peninsula—12 Japanese fighters were intercepted in the KATHA District. HEHO air field was raided.

March 30.—Out of 22 Japanese fighters and bombers which attacked a forward landing ground in South-East BENGAL, 13 were damaged and 5 were unable to return. On the same day, Japanese positions at KAHTA and RAGAUNGGYAUNG were bombed, and one of our light naval aircraft sank 4 Japanese motor launches in the Mayu River.

March 31.—The R. A. F. attacked the Bhamo oil installations, MANDALAY, MAYMYO, PYINMANA, SATTHWA and KATHA.

April 1.—The U. S. Air Force attacked YWATUNG and ALOU.

April 2.—THAZI was raided by the U.S. Air Force, and KAMBALA by the R. A. F.

Three of the Japanese aircraft which attacked MAUNGDAW and inflicted slight damage were destroyed.

April 3.—The R. A. F. attacked the MYITNGE BRIDGE area.

April 4.—The U. S. Air Force bombed the Thilawa oil refinery, south of RANGOON.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

28—3—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE.

DAY (Several Axis fighters shot down, 5 Allied planes lost).

Shipping and ship building yards at ROTTERDAM.
Industrial objectives at LIEGE.
A factory at HENGELO (Holland).
Goods trains and barges in HOLLAND.
Railway yards at ROUEN.

NIGHT:—

The submarine base at ST. NAZAIRE (2 Allied planes missing).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy transport in the GABES area.
Offensive sweeps over the fighting areas.
Lines of communication in the SFAX and SOUSSE areas.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at BUIN and KAHILI (Shortlands).
Airfields at GASMATA (N. Britain).
Jap installations at CAPE GLOUCESTER.
Dock area at TAVOY (Burma).
Villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).

29—3—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Shipping at ROTTERDAM.
Industrial objectives in HOLLAND.
Railway yards at ABBEVILLE.

NIGHT:—

Military and other objectives in BERLIN.
Industrial objectives at BOCHUM and **other places** in the RUHR (Germany).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles and troops concentrations in the battle areas in TUNISIA.
Troops north of GABES.
Guns, tanks and road junctions in the FONDOUK, PICHON and the MAKNASSI areas.
LA SAUCONNIERE.
Airfields at EL MAOU and SFAX.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the RUSSIAN front.

FAR EAST.

The harbour at MADANG (N. Guinea).
Villages in the SAIDAN area (N. Guinea).
Shore installations at LAE.
LANGGOER (Kai Islands).
The air-fields at GASMATA and CAPE GLOUCESTER (New Britain).
Camp area at KISKA (Aleutians).
Enemy installations in North Burma.
UPANG area (Burma).
Supplies at HPUNGINIUP (Burma).
Targets at TAUNGGON and MABEIN (Burma).
The air-field at HEHO (Burma).

30—3—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Several locomotives in BRITTANY (France).
Philips radio works at EINDHOVEN (Holland)
(No Allied air losses).

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy tanks and vehicles north of GABES and in the central sector.
An enemy air-field and enemy motor transport near SFAX.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at KISKA, HOLTZ BAY and ATTU Island.
MUNDA (N. Georgia).
Air field at LAE (New Guinea).
Jap motor launches in the MAYU River.
RATHEDAUNG area.

31—3—43 (Wednesday).

DAY:— EUROPE.

Shipping and shipyards at ROTTERDAM.

NIGHT:—

No information available.

• TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANAN.
(9 enemy planes shot down).

An air field near SFAX.
Transport coloumns, tanks, and armoured cars in the ELGUETTAR area.
The docks at BIZERTA.
Air fields at LASAU CONNEIRE and ELDJEM.
Sweeps over the FONDOUK area.
The air fields at CAGLIARI (Sardinia).
A convoy in the SICILIAN channel.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern front.

FAR EAST.

The road between MADANG and WEWAK (N. Guinea).
Enemy positions at LAE and SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).
Jap targets in the Solomons area.
Jap positions at KAHILI and BUIN.
Jap gun emplacements at KISKA (Aleutians).
Oil installations and other objectives at BHAMO (Burma).
Marshalling yards at MANDALAY (Burma).
Air combats over the BUTHEDAUNG area (1 enemy plane shot down).
Railroad yards at MAYMYO.

1—4—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY (5 Allied planes missing):—

Railway workshops at TIER (Germany).
Railway yards at EHRANG (Germany).
Offensive patrol over FRANCE.
Railway targets in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy transport columns, tanks and armoured cars north of GABES (Tunisia).
EL MAOU airfield at SFAX.
Airfield at LAFAUCONNIERE (Tunisia).
Offensive sweeps over the various battle zones in TUNISIA (6 enemy planes shot down).
The harbour at MESSINA (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions in the MUBO, FINSCHAFFEN and SAUMLAKI (N Guinea).
Air combat over Dutch New Guinea (2 Jap planes shot down).
The railroad yards at YWANTAUNG and ALON (Burma).
Railroad bridges at PYINMANA, SATTHWA and KATHA.

2—4—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

No information available.

NIGHT:—

Enemy submarines and U-Boat yards at LORIENT and ST. NAZAIRE (both Atlantic ports in FRANCE).
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.
Railway targets in BELGIUM and HOLLAND.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy troops, armoured cars, tanks and communications in the area north of GABES.
Transport and troops north of WADI AKARIT.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front

FAR EAST.

Targets at ALEXISCHAFFEN, FINSCHAFFEN, and MUBO (New Guinea).
Air fields at CAPE GLOUCESTER (N. Britain), GASMATA (N. Britain), and KAUIENG.
Jap shipping in the STEFFEN STRAIT.
Ry. junction at KANBALU (Burma).
Village on the MAYU Peninsula (Burma).
MAUNGDAW (Burma).

3—4—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

The enemy air-field at ABBEVILLE (France).
The docks at BREST.
Railway targets in Northern FRANCE and BELGIUM.
An enemy trawler off HOLLAND (5 enemy planes and one allied plane lost).

NIGHT:—

The Krupps armament works at ESSEN (Germany).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Offensive sweeps over the Northern and Central fronts in TUNISIA.
An airfield near SFAX.
Tanks and vehicles north of GABES.

RUSSIA.

(For the week 27—3—43 to 3—4—43 Russians lost 73 planes while the Axis lost 124 planes).
Air combats and aircraft on the ground in the various zones of the RUSSIAN battlefield.

FAR EAST.

The oil town of YENANGYAUNG (Burma).
Targets along the UPPER CHINDWIN (Burma).
Jap warships and merchantmen off KAUIENG in New Island. (7 war ships and 5 ships sunk or damaged).
The air-field at KAUIENG (New Ireland).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

29—3—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

A town in South coast of ENGLAND.

TUNISIA.

American positions in the GAFSA area.

FAR EAST.

ORA BAY (N. Guinea).

Combats over an airfield in South BENGAL (3 Jap planes damaged).

30—3—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

TUNISIA.

American positions in the FONDOUK area.

RUSSIA.

BYELI area.

FAR EAST.

ORA BAY (N. Guinea).

Reconnaissance over BOBODURA (1 Jap plane shot down).

31—3—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

RUSSIA.

BYELI area.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons). (16 Jap planes and 6 Allied planes lost).

1—4—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity over BRITAIN.

TUNISIA.

EL GUETTAR area.

RUSSIA.

A few places on the east bank of the River DONETZ.

2—4—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

TUNISIA.

American positions in the EL GUETTAR area.

RUSSIA.

BYELI area.

FAR EAST.

Port DARWIN (Australia).

3—4—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

TUNISIA.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

Russian bases on the east bank of River DONETZ.

SIDE LIGHTS.

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION : The I. A. F. By a happy coincidence two celebrations fell on the first of April—the 10th birthday of the I.A.F. and the Jubilee celebration of the R. A. F. Though the Indian Air Force has been described as the little brother of the Royal Air Force, the relations of the I. A. F. to the R. A. F. are filial rather than fraternal. The I. A. F. owes everything to the R. A. F., its conception, its inception and its training. Its history, though extending only over a decade is a story of romance, adventure and action. Started in 1933 under the recommendations of the Skeene Committee, it owes its origin to the Indian Air Force Act passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1932. All honour to the six brave men who constituted its first personnel when the first flight of 4 planes was formed on April 1, 1933, at KARACHI. It had its baptism of fire in the Frontier operations of 1937. Since 1939, it has grown from strength to strength, equipped with the most modern craft and weapons, with a Training School at RASALPUR. Indian pilots have gone to ENGLAND, been seconded to the R. A. F. and have captained Stirlings and raided GERMANY. Nearer home, the I. A. F. has carried out anti-submarine patrols, convoyed escorts around Indian shores, and taken and takes an active part in the Burmese operations. The I.A.F. is the realisation of one of INDIA's dreams and aspirations; it has shown the suitability of Indians to this great new enterprise. Though in size and scope it is different from and much smaller than the R. A. F., the I. A. F. has and will have a distinct part to play in the present and in the future, it is defending INDIA now, and hereafter it is destined to become a power and a force for good to keep ASIA in order.

'INDIA's Air Force,' Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief in INDIA stated, on the day of the celebration, 'will before long have an opportunity to prove itself in battle on a larger scale than hitherto, and I am confident that it will justify the patience and training which have gone to building it up, and that it will prove itself to be a cause of pride to the people of this country.

'INDIA is a country peculiarly fitted for the operation of Air Forces, and its future security will depend, in a larger measure, on its air strength.'

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The R. A. F. Senior to the I. A. F., is still young enough to grow, though, already grown enough to have its place in the vanguard of the world's Air Forces. It was born at CRANWELL. At the end of the last war it was easily the best of the world's Forces in the Air. In 1918 it became the R. A. F. when thanks to the vision of General Smuts, then on the British War Cabinet, the Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps were amalgamated, with the present designation. Curtailed for a while, in the name of disarmament, it has now been newly strengthened, with the most formidable weapons and the best airmen the world has known. It saved BRITAIN, the Empire, and the world in the Battle over British Skies in 1940, destroying 2,375 planes of the enemy in a few weeks. It now dominates the skies wherever it appears, and is definitely breaking down the citadels and strongholds of the enemy. In the words of His Majesty, 'In the quarter of a century that has passed since the Royal Air Force assumed its present name, it has won—and daily continues to win—*imperishable renown.*

'It is not so long ago that, greatly outnumbered, it hurled back mighty Armadas launched against these islands as the preliminary to an invasion and our destruction. Now powerful and well-armed, its squadrons are everywhere deployed for attack.

'Across the high seas, in collaboration with the Royal Navy, it shares the triumphs of our armies in the field, and in its own sphere it penetrates, by day and night, the enemy's most formidable defences, to aim crippling blows at his bases and arsenals, at the nerve centres of his resistance.'

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THE BRITISH PREMIER AND THE FLYING BADGE. One of the most pleasing and fitting events of the Jubilee celebration was the award of the fiying Badge to Mr. Churchill, who, more than any other, shares with the R. A. F. the glory of the victory of the Battle of BRITAIN, for it was he, who, like Horatius of old, stood on the bridge inspired the R. A. F. and saved the world for civilisation. The aged Premier—the 'old war horse', has already flown 30,000 miles on duty during the present war. In acknowledging the award, Mr. Churchill paid a noble tribute to the R. A. F :—

'I am honoured to be accorded a place in that comradeship of the air, which guards the life of our island and which is the carrier of doom to tyrants, whether they flaunt themselves or burrow deep.

'At this moment, we may say, without vanity, that the R. A. F. is second to none. At this moment, it is the spear point of the British offensive against the proud and cruel enemy who boasted that he would 'erase' the cities of our native land, and who hoped to lay all lands under his toll and thrall. As the world conflict deepens the war, the future of the R. A. F. grows with still brighter and fiercer light'

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RUSSIA. Now that the spring thaw has set in it is time to assess the results of RUSSIA's winter offensive. RUSSIA has broken the back of the main German strength concentrated on the Eastern front, reconquered practically all the German conquests of last year, and has once for all shattered the myth of Hitler's invincibility and infallibility by her great victories before STALINGRAD, in the Donetz Bend and the CAUCASUS. Never more can Hitler raise his head in pride and shout and boast that his legions will pass through RUSSIA like a knife through cheese.

Unashamedly, however, German commentators are busy playing up the alleged heavy casualties as the price that RUSSIA has paid for her winter victories. In his weekly diatribe Lord Haw-Haw says that the offensive has 'cost the Russians dear.'

If the Russians have lost in men and material, they have also won back much of their fatherland, and their prestige, besides knocking the foe down. Moreover, the careful reader will not be misled by the Nazi mendacities about the losses. The lie is audacious, both by concealing the extent of the German losses, on one hand, and by simultaneously exaggerating the Russian losses on the other. We have Stalin's declaration of February 23, estimating the German losses, in the three winter months at 700,000 killed, over 300,000 taken prisoner, 7,000 tanks, 4,000 planes and 17,000 guns captured or destroyed. And yet, in his Heroes' Day speech, Hitler had the audacity to cut down his casualty list to 542,000! And please note that this loss was not confined to these three winter months only, but *covered the whole period of the war, on the eastern, western, northern and southern fronts*: it is 'GERMANY'S total war losses', these are Hitler's words.

But there is nothing so easy as to nail this gargantuan lie to the counter. A year ago, BERLIN publicly admitted that the losses then amounted to a million. Since then have happened STALINGRAD and the German rout from the CAUCASUS and the Donetz.

It is evidently the Nazi belief that one lie will neutralise another. The Germans, they say, have lost but half a million, while the Russians have lost 18 millions—that is, one German for 36 Russians. At this rate no Russian will be left alive. Why then fear a Bolshevik RUSSIA!

Spring follows thaw, and naturally speculation has revived and forecasts are being made of a possible German spring offensive, even though there is no reason why with the advent of each spring there should be a German spring. It is no doubt possible that urged by the mad and insensate fury of Hitler the

German hosts may be flung again towards ROTSOV or STALINGRAD or the CAUCASUS. But what are the chances ? Is it not equally possible that, cheered by the late victories, the Russians themselves may launch an offensive this time, instead of the Germans. At any rate, if GERMANY's chances were bright last year, this year there is no ground for hope. If she was poor last year in oil, she is now almost bankrupt in this commodity. If last year, her man-power was already strained, the position now has become desperate. If twelve months ago she seized the wheat lands of RUSSIA, because she was hungry, now she is hungrier still, deprived of her new prey. If last winter's knocks made Hitler squawk, the defeats and retreats of this winter have made him yell and howl. And what has made the position far worse is the Anglo-American descent on North AFRICA, and Montgomery's continuing victories. According to competent observers AFRICA may be cleared of the Axis intruders before the spring is over, and ITALY itself may be invaded, with the Axis countries in EUROPE under continual air raid, crippling the Axis industries and communications. The Axis satellites, have received enough hard knocks already and it is even possible that when spring comes Hitler may be the hunted instead of the hunter ; at any rate, the German cat which had already sprung twice in the past years may not spring again ; or if ever it does, it may be maimed and lamed.

Captain Cyril Falls, the most careful of military commentators, has made the following forecast about the spring. "Campaign in RUSSIA, or what he calls the 'mid-season campaign', i.e., the period 'between the end of March and the time when the ground becomes hard again':—

"In the KUBAN, continuation of local actions ; on the Southern Front, continuation of the present lull for sometime; on the MOSCOW Front, steady but probably not very violent Russian pressure towards SMOLENSK ; on the LENINGRAD Front, possibility of another strong, but if so, short Russian offensive".

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TUNISIA. In the early days of the landing in North-West AFRICA it seemed as if General Anderson's First Army would easily reach BIZERTA and TUNIS. But Vichy's treachery enabled Hitler to send General Arnim to this area across the Sicilian Narrows, and hold himself there, though precariously supplied and reinforced. Meanwhile Rommel's withdrawal into TUNISIA, with the whole of his Tripolitanian forces swelled the Axis strength to about a million men.

This accounts for the seeming delay in a campaign which should otherwise have been brief. This accounts for the long period of incubation, as it were, of Montgomery's preparation for his attack on the Mareth Line. There is nothing haphazard in his campaigns; he leaves nothing to chance ; so that when he strikes it proves fatal. Rommel who has retreated from the Mareth Line, cannot flee much further, over long distances, over thousands of miles, as he did after EL ALAMEIN. He is within sight of the sea. 'I have got

a villa ready for Rommel', says Giraud, 'and I shall treat him better than he did me'. General Giraud thinks that now that Rommel has been driven out of the Mareth Lines his and his army's chances of escape are very slender. In the words of Mr. Stimson 'conclusive work is being done.'

Synchronising with the Eighth Army's pressure from the south, the Americans on the central sector, and the British First Army in the northern sector, are also making satisfactory progress. MATOUIA and OUDREF recently reported captured are both north of GABES, and it is interesting to note that they are also on the road to El GUETTAR and GAFSA, along which the Americans are advancing. Outside GABES the main road bifurcates, one branch running to GAFSA, and the other to SFAX. WADI AKARAT, where Rommel is expected to make a stand, cuts across both the roads.

Though optimists, like the Australian correspondent who wrote on April 2, may think that the Axis troops will all be out of TUNISIA in five weeks, British official opinion is cautious, as the enemy has still distinct advantages of terrain and prepared positions, and Rommel has orders to hang on as long as possible, so as to gain precious time for fortifying the under belly of Hitler's EUROPE.

In the event of an attempt by Rommel and Arnim at escape by sea, the Royal Navy is ready to inflict a worse than DUNKIRK on the Axis Armies. The Royal Navy, already possessed of immense striking power in the Mediterranean, has now been augmented with fresh warships, guns and man-power, both east and west of the Sicilian Channel, with hundreds of torpedo-bombers, dive-bombers and cannon-firing fighters. The Sicilian Channel, though called 'Narrows', is nearly five times as wide as the English Channel is at DUNKIRK. If the Germans do not want a DUNKIRK after their recent STALINGRAD, they must follow Hitler's dictum, 'do or die.' And the tragedy will not end here. It will reach a further climax in ITALY. Broadcasting to the Italian people on Saturday (April 3) General Giraud warned them thus :—

'Italy awake. Another few months, and the day of reckoning will come. Thousands of bombers are preparing for raids against Italy. Your industries, transports, everything that gives bread to the Italian people will be destroyed. Poor Italy, you will experience a fate unknown to any nation in all history. But there is still time. You must lay down your arms. A few more weeks, a few more days, and it will be too late.'

What do Giraud's words mean? He is much too serious a man, too plain a soldier to indulge in bluff or threat. It looks as if the clouds were gathering in the Mediterranean. 'The end of the war may come more suddenly than some of us thought six months ago' says Lord Halifax, 'Germany's war machine is so delicately balanced, that when stress and strain become too great and the first crack occurs, a great part of the machine may go.'

HITLER'S INCAPACITY now become patent, by his signal defeats in RUSSIA and AFRICA, receives its confirmation from an unexpected quarter—from the land of the dead, from Admiral Darlan, once his stooge and later his enemy. In a 'message to AMERICA', which he contributed to an American magazine a few days before his assassination he wrote, 'In getting Hitler to sign an Armistice, FRANCE at least had succeeded in making him commit the first and possibly the most serious of his military blunders. But for the Armistice, Axis troops would immediately have proceeded to occupy North AFRICA.'

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THE CURSE OF GOD. The Catholic and Protestant churches in HOLLAND have combined together in sending a protest to the German occupying authorities condemning the slave-hunt of the young people of HOLLAND in thousands, the slaughter of Jewish patriots, the killing of hostages and the imprisonment of the ministers of the Church, and warn them of God's judgment.

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EDUCATION FOR GERMANY. Concurrently, the Joint Commission of the London International Assembly and the Council for Education in World Citizenship have recommended the appointment of a High Commissioner for post-war GERMANY to reform her educational system. They maintain that the Nazi upas tree grew out of a sinful education. There will be a period, they say, in which GERMANY herself will be occupied, and for a peaceful EUROPE the vicious Nazism of GERMANY must be removed by an educational reconstruction.

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THE S. W. PACIFIC Front is unique in the kind of warfare that is going on there at present. The area is made up of a large number of islands and numerous stretches of sea. Some islands like NEW GUINEA are large enough for a campaign, and others are too small to have even an aerodrome. The country ashore is equally varied—flat, rugged, sandy, and marshy. This strange Pacific 'battle-line' extends over land and sea, jungle, and river and mountain, from KOEPANG in Dutch TIMOR to SAN-CRISTOBAL in the SOLOMONS, long, rambling, irregular—each side jabs for limited objectives. The thrust is by armies, planes and warships. But since the Japanese offensive faded out in 1941, and later, since GUADALCANAR and Eastern PAPUA were lost, the battle of the S.W. Pacific is chiefly a battle from the air for land and sea. To take an instance, out of 200 planes the enemy assembled lately in RABAUL about half were destroyed by air attack. This is the reason of the repeated statements of air-raids on Japanese bases appearing daily in the war communiqués. This air war is now concentrated in the skies of NEW BRITAIN, RABAUL, GASMATA, in the Islands of KAI, TENIMBER and ARU.

BA MAW is BURMA's Laval. His recent visit to TOKYO—the Asiatic Berlin—is personal rather than patriotic. Ba Maw who has numerous enemies at home is on a sticky wicket. His political visit, professedly for 'closer collaboration' is to obtain some glamorous concession to ease his wicket. We are told the opening of a railway line from INDO-CHINA to BURMA was considered.

BURMA's 'independence' has now been defined. It is said to be 'union' both politically and economically with JAPAN. BURMA must be defended by 'Japanese strength'.

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IN THE ARAKAN AREA the enemy has for the time being succeeded in outflanking near RATHEDAUNG and exerting some pressure near DONBAIK. But our main objects in the campaign have been secured. AKYAB, from which the enemy intended to attack INDIA, has been neutralised, INDIA's defences have been strengthened by keeping the Japanese divisions busy otherwise, and much intimate knowledge of the enemy's tactics has been secured—his jungle tactics and his 'suicidal defence'.

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A WORD ABOUT THE U-BOAT— Hitler's infernal weapon. In reply to the Allied statements that the menace is being mastered by new devices such as Radio Location, the German boast in reply is that they now send their Fokewolfes after the Allied convoys, which flash information to BERLIN of the convoys' position, course and speed, thus enabling BERLIN to flash back the news to all U-boats on the route and to order them to concentrate on the convoys. But strange to tell, the device, though so damaging in the telling, has not produced any appreciable results, as may be judged from the fact that since the great landing on North AFRICA, well over a million tons of stores and well over half a million of men have been safely delivered to that theatre. The Eighth, the First, and the American Armies continue to be liberally provisioned, while Russian supplies have also not been stinted. Mr. Churchill revealed on March 25 that in spite of the sinkings, the United Nations have now afloat fleets 'substantially larger' than ever before.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF 1942 FRONT.

AIM OF GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN RUSSIA.

(Major General Sir Charles Gwynn.)

While the loss of Kharkov must obviously be a bitter disappointment to the Russians, their leader evidently realised that the essential thing was to frustrate the German attempt to surround and annihilate an important part of the Soviet army. That attempt has been defeated, for although the Russians fought fiercely in defence of the city, they did not allow sentiment to obscure strategical judgment and withdrew before retreat became impossible. It

seems probable on the other hand that the Germans in their anxiety to secure a prestige success may have employed forces, especially armoured, for the capture of the city, which might have been more effectively used in an encircling manoeuvre. Though the Russians may have lost heavily in their retreat carried out under unfavourable conditions of weather, they have exacted a high price from the pursuing armies, and—especially by the determined stand on the middle Donetz—have escaped encirclement. The crisis has not passed, for German attempts to cross the middle Donetz and press on with their northern drive to Byelgorod still continue.

The Germans admit, however, that mud has now confined their movement to roads and railways, and the further they advance the greater will their difficulties become.

The Russians probably intend to stabilize the front on the line of the upper and middle Donetz, which at this season should provide a formidable obstacle. Much may depend, however, on the progress which has been made with the regauging of the recaptured railways, for if they are in working order, they should immensely expedite the arrival of reinforcements and facilitate the regrouping of the retreating army.

THAW CONDITIONS MAY BE EASIER.

How long the German offensive will continue may depend on what will now be their aim if they have failed to trap any large Russian forces. They may perhaps attempt to re-establish their last winter front from Orel to Taganrog, and the fact that at the risk of encirclement they have held on to the Orel salient may indicate that intention.

The re-establishment of that front would entail the recapture of Kursk and the lateral railway between Orel and Kharkov. This would not only provide a defensive position, but would also enforce the withdrawal of the dangerous Russian thrust west of Kursk, which interrupts communications between Briansk and Kharkov.

Whether an operation on that scale is feasible under thaw conditions seems doubtful, but it must be remembered that this winter the snow blanket has been only about one third of its usual depth, so the mud conditions may not be so bad as usual nor persist as long.

Still, unless the Germans see the prospect of trapping large Russian forces or gaining positions required for the development of their future plans, it seems improbable that they will continue to use such a large part of their reserves in continuous offensive operations under difficult weather conditions. It will not be surprising, therefore, if a lull in fighting soon occurs.

On the central front, the German withdrawal from Vyasma, even if in a sense voluntary, represents a great Russian success, since it not only relieves the threat to Moscow, but opens a way for offensive operations against German communications north and south of Smolensk.

It seems improbable that there is any immediate intention of attempting to capture Smolensk, for it is evidently a highly fortified centre and a large force is still available to hold it. The retreating Germans are being hard pressed, but when their resistance stiffens the front may be established at some distance east of Smolensk for a considerable time. The Russian offensive in the Lake Ilmen region, threatening Staraya Russia may continue, but here again an unusually early spring is producing difficult conditions.

A factor which may affect summer operations would seem to be that while the Germans have been forced to employ during the winter vital motor transport in which there have been heavy losses in addition to deterioration in wear and tear, the Russians on the other hand, by using sledge transport, have not made such heavy demands on the vehicles required in the coming summer. If that is the correct deduction, the summer may find the Germans less well and the Rnssians better equipped for summer mobile operations than in any previous year. Whether the Germans will also have more difficulty than ever in maintaining traffic efficiently on their long lines of railway communication remains to be seen, but it is evidently a factor which must have great influence on their strategical plans.

THE GERMANS MAY STAGE MAJOR WITHDRAWAL.

Prior to the Kharkov offensive the Germans were credited with the intention of drastically shortening their front by falling back to the Dnieper, and by withdrawing on the Leningrad front.

Has that intention been abandoned except so far as it meant withdrawal from the Vyasma salient? Or is it still their intention to carry out a major withdrawal when the hard ground will facilitate movement, and at a time when the Russians after their winter exertions will not have sufficiently recovered to interfere with the withdrawal?

Such a course is is certainly a possible alternative to an attempt to restore lastlwinter's front in the south, and one aim of the present counter-offensive may be to relieve the withdrawal from the Donetz to the Dnieper of the danger of a Russian flank attack from the north.

A withdrawal prior to the Kharkov offensive was hardly practicable, for it would have been pursued from the east and exposed to attack from the north. Now, withdrawals could be carried out under much safer conditions.

ASPECTS OF TUNISIAN CAMPAIGN.

"WORKING MODEL OF MODERN WARFARE."

In years to come the Tunisian campaign will probably be a favourite subject for study at military staff colleges, for it will provide a working model, as it were, of modern warfare in almost all its aspects. The strategy is as fascinating as it is complicated. On one side there is the Allied plan of invasion of Southern Europe by two armies converging across Africa from

Egypt and the Atlantic. On the other there is the German plan to drive a spearhead between the two Allied armies and deliberately risking the destruction of their force in order to impede and delay the European assault during a major crisis on the Russian front.

This campaign is also providing a new demonstration of the flexible power of the air-arm when it works as an integral part of the military machine. As in Libya, aircraft of the Western Desert air-force are operating like flying tanks in close support of General Montgomery's infantry. They are also supplementing the work of artillery by putting down a barrage from the air, and they are weakening the enemy's lines of communication on land and sea. But the most interesting and important test of air-power has yet to come. Sooner or later, Rommel's forces will be fighting with their backs to the sea, and subjected to air bombardment from three directions at once—from Algeria in the west, Malta in the north, and the Desert air force in the south. The enemy's field positions, dumps, depóts and transport—crowded together in a confined area—and his sea routes back to Europe, will be brought under an unprecedented concentration of air fire. It remains to be seen what will happen when an army is caught in a real air trap, and whether the enemy will weaken his air defences in Europe in an effort to break it.

Students of war will also come to record this campaign for the lessons to be learned from it as regards the organisation and maintenance of supply services. There are three supply stories—Anglo-American in Algeria, that of the Eighth Army, and the German. Each is different, but all exert vital influence on operations in the field. Perhaps the most instructive is the German, for it provides a working demonstration of all the land, sea and air factors which apply to maintaining an army across a narrow stretch of sea.

These are some considerations which will be weighed and analysed by the professional soldier for future guidance. They are also points which the public should bear in mind as they watch this campaign unfold towards its dramatic denouement, which will itself be the curtain raiser for even more spectacular developments.

SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS OF EIGHTH ARMY.

INTRICATE MECHANISM DURING ADVANCE.

Now that the Eighth Army has begun the second part of its great task, it is of interest to consider how communication was organised and maintained throughout its intricate mechanism during the first, writes *The Times* military correspondent.

Little or nothing has as yet been written about signal communications. Preliminaries were in some respects reminiscent of the last war. An underground cable from Cairo was extended to within 1,000 yards of the foremost position. Overhead routes were pushed farther forward, with numerous spurs which played their part in the centralized control of artillery preparation.

At the beginning of the advance also, lines were largely employed, in case the wireless should reveal our movements. For this purpose, engineers who cleared the gaps were accompanied by linesmen, with the task of extending and manning cable communications. The cables were constantly cut or picked up in the treads of tanks, but they proved extremely useful in the direction of armoured battle.

In the next stage, the wireless became the chief means of control. The enormous number of sets in use made necessary a very careful distribution of wireless frequencies, but this was achieved successfully.

Yet the telephone and telegraph did not by any means drop out of use. Stocks had been accumulated to extend the routes as quickly as possible, but at first the speed of the advance, and the destruction of his routes by the enemy, made it impossible to keep up with the foremost troops.

The enemy's maintenance was very bad by British standards, joints in the wire being left unsoldered. In order that the carrier equipment—which provides several speech and telegraph circuits on a single pair of wires—should operate, it was necessary to cut out the rejoint and solder about 100 "dry" joints to a mile.

Up to Tobruk one line followed the road, one the Railway.

TELEPHONE FROM TRIPOLI TO BAGHDAD.

From Tobruk there was no railway, and a minimum number of "pairs" was extended along the road route, leaving others to be added later on. On January 30, the Chief Signal Officer of the Eighth Army was able to telephone from Tripoli to Baghdad, a distance of over 2,500 miles or twice the distance between London and Moscow.

The stores were sent by sea from Mersa Matruh, Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli as they fell into our hands.

It had been realized that the rapid advance would outstrip the line of communications. Mobile high speed wireless detachments had therefore been formed, to accompany the Headquarters and maintain touch with Cairo; it was they that handled all the most urgent traffic during the pursuit. In the same way wireless was the mainstay of the communications within the army, both for administrative and for operational purposes. By its use the columns raiding behind the enemy's lines were able to send back vital information; medical supplies were hurried to dressing stations in time to save many lives. The maintenance of the Eighth Army's wireless sets was in itself a problem of supply. Most sets use a pair of batteries equal in weight and size to a large car battery. These had to be charged and supplied with acid and distilled water. The replacement and repair of sets also required workshop organisation, large stocks and spares.

The farther one goes in the story the less becomes the resemblance to the conditions of the last war which struck one at the outset. The whole business has become far vaster and more complicated. But in these trying circumstances it worked.

THREE PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS IN AIR.

(*Sunday Times*).

Three widely different æronautical developments of significance for the future have just been made known, all of which may be'destined to bring about fundamental changes and advances in their particular spheres. They are :—

1. The use of helicopters for anti-submarine patrol by the British and American Navies.

2. Squadrons of specially armed R. A. F., "tank buster" Hurricanes in North Africa and

3. First flights of an air cargo "tramp" in the United States.

Helicopters are not new. But none had been very successful until Mr. Igor Sikorsky began serious research some four years ago. The Vought-Sikorsky-300 helicopter can be flown upward, forward, sideways, backward and in a circle with absolute precision, at any speed within its range. That is from nought to about 100 m. p. h., forward and from nought to about 25 m. p. h., in other directions. It can alight on either land or sea.

An improved and more powerful version of this helicopter is announced to be in production for the American navy, and presumably this is the machine which will be supplied to the Royal Navy as well. The helicopter is still in its comparatively early stages of development. The load it can lift is small and its range is limited. But its possibility lies in its ability to take off from or alight on restricted spaces such as a desk of a merchant ship. Although the helicopter is never likely to supplant the more normal aeroplane for flights of long range at high speed, it is certain to be useful for special puposes.

The second important development is the **"tank busting" Hawker Hurricane**—that magnificently versatile aeroplane in yet another form. Little may be said of its armament yet, except that it consists of a large-bore cannon slung under the wings. Hitherto the largest cannon mounted in fighters has been of 37 m. m., (one and a half inch) calibre which fires a shell weighing 1.1 lb. The chief problem in attempting to use heavy guns from the air is to design a gun with a fast enough rate of fire to achieve a number of hits when flying at high speed. The "tank busting" Hurriaane opens up new avenues for the tactical development of offensive action from the air against ground forces or ships at sea.

Finally, a plastic built **cargo ship of the air** is announced. In the new American Curtiss-Wright Caravan, we see a fresh conception of the employment of air transport. This aeroplane is a 2-motor monoplane designed, first and foremost, to be cheap and easy to build and lift heavy loads and to

have large cubic capacity—in fact an air freight car. Speed has been sacrificed, and by modern standards the Caravan is slow. But its cruising speed, about 140 m.p.h., is many times faster than any alternative means of transport for moving great quantities of supplies over mountains or across jungles, as in New Guinea.

These three developments are but examples of the present trends. We are on the eve of developments in aviation both in Great Britain and in the United States such as will lead to bigger advances in the next decade than in all the 40 years since controlled flight was first achieved by man.

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

(*Dorothy Thompson*).

I doubt if anyone ever visited us who has received such an enthusiastic welcome as the wife of the Chinese Generalissimo. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek understands America. She was educated here in Wellesley, she has many personal friends here, and her ideas were greatly influenced by twentieth century America.

She is ill from over-work and must rest in bed, preparing for her return to China. I saw her this week, and I thought immediately, it had been a happy thought that her parents named her Mayling. For Mayling means "beautiful age". I believe that the wife of the Generalissimo is an extraordinarily beautiful woman. She is like exquisite Chinese ivory. Her skin is the colour of satiny old ivory. Her eyes are very black and of shining velvety softness.

But when she begins to speak, one understands the excitement that penetrated even the most hard-boiled newspaperman. For this lovely little ornament—that is how she looks—speaks with passion and fire, combined with cool reason, and she talks the language of our century and ahead of our century.

We talked about woman and the rôle of woman in the world to come. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek believes in women. She believes that the great revolution which has taken place in the life of women throughout the world during the last half century will now begin to bear fruit. She spoke of the tremendous work in factories, fields and higher reaches of organization being done by British women, and she spoke of these women with more than admiration—with affection. And she spoke of the heroism, suffering and work of the women of China. She said, "I believe that women are more courageous than men," explaining: "I don't mean courage of the battlefield. I mean political courage. Perhaps it is because men are always forced to take thought

of their interests and their jobs. They see how difficult it is to make a new, better world, and they worry how their interests are affected. But women are terribly obstinate when they see something must be done.

"And what must be done is to create a world organization after this war, to end war. It must be done, and you, because, you have a chance to write and speak, must write and speak for the women of your own country and the world for this purpose. Never let any picture of the difficulties hinder you. Speak to all women who will listen to you, and say to them, 'You must band together to protect your children through world organization, against a repetition of the awful things that have happened and are now happening to the women and children of China'."

You see what her influence is. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek knows that nothing will prevent war except international organization for the maintenance and enforcement of peace. She knows that the United Nations have it within their power to prevent it after this war, if they do not drift apart. She knows that no nation, however big and strong, can stand safely alone again in this world. **She is the First Lady of China, but she is much more—she is one of the First Ladies of this globe, and she has a heart and mind big enough for women of every colour and every race.**

REASSESSMENT OF PACIFIC SITUATION.

(A. D. Rothman).

Attempts are being made in Washington to secure a reassessment of the entire Pacific situation. This is the outcome of discussions revolving round the visits of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, and the Allied Air Force Commander in the South-West Pacific, Lieutenant-General Kenney.

In these discussions emphasis is being placed on the need for greater reinforcement, not only for the South-West Pacific alone, but also of the naval position in the entire Pacific area.

One of the most interesting arguments being advanced in support of the contention that the Japanese can be held at present without the maximum devotion of force in the Pacific, is that the greater portion of new American naval building continues to be allocated to the Pacific and it comprises a steadily growing contribution towards winning the war against Japan. It is the navy which assures the safety of Australia more than anything else.

It is insisted further that the weight of evidence is against any more large-scale offensives by Japan, as Japan realises that Germany must lose the war and is therefore preparing to bear the weight of the combined United Nations attack alone

when Germany ceases fighting. This preparation, it is claimed, is taking the form of reinforcing the outer rim of Japan's new empire, and explains the preparation of new bases thereon.

Also it is said that if Japan finds it necessary to make a further diversionary move, it is likely to be, not against Australia which she does not consider as a source of vital threat to her, but against the Midway Islands or Hawaii, wherefrom one of the pincer movements—the other being from Burma or China—of the ultimate United Nations onslaught against Japanese home islands will occur.

CHINA AS AN OFFENSIVE BASE.

(*Lord Strabolgi*).

Japan has mobilised 100 divisions. A Japanese division numbers between 18,000 and 20,000 soldiers. There are no completely armoured and mechanised divisions like the German Panzer division, or similar units developed in the British and American armies, and the biggest all-tank unit is a brigade. This is partly because of the paucity of heavy industries in Japan, and partly because of the type of warfare for which the Japanese Army was organised.

Compared with European standards, Japanese Divisions are lightly equipped, but they are well suited for operations in China, or for overseas expeditions such as those used for the conquests of Malaya, the Philippines and islands of the South West Pacific.

Of the hundred divisions mobilised, the Japanese High Command maintains ten at home as reserve, 25 as garrisons for new conquests, including Burma, and 33 on the frontiers with Russian Siberia and the Russian Protectorate of Outer Mongolia, while 32 divisions are engaged in China proper on the so-called China " incident ". It is calculated that 1/8th of the total Japanese air forces are also engaged in China. Besides the field divisions used in the China campaign, there are line-of-communication troops, and various specialised formations bringing the total military man-power up to about one million men.

CHINESE POSITIONS.

After 5½ years' fighting in China, the Japanese have suffered two million casualties, have sustained several important reverses in the field, but have conquered most of the coastal districts, the main river ports and the country surrounding them. They hold about half the province of inner Mongolia.

The successful occupation by the Japanese of Burma, Thailand, and French Indo-China has made it possible for the Chinese Nationlist Government forces,

still holding the vast central, western and northern districts of the country, to be virtually blockaded. Overland communications are not yet possible with Northern India, though the work is going forward on an alternative route across difficult mountainous country in North East India, to replace the so-called Burma Road, which was constructed with so much labour from Lashio, the Burma rail-head, to Chungking, the Nationalist Capital. Recent movements of Japanese troops in the north-east of Burma and in Northern Indo-China, seem to indicate that an attempt may now be made to cut across the line of this new road, and also make it possible to harass the large transport planes which fly to Chungking from Northern India, and which are now the principal link between Nationalist China and her allies.

DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES.

If the Japanese did break down the Chinese resistance, they would be able to transfer a large number of the 32 divisions in China, either to increase the threat to Eastern Siberia, or for an attack on India. A Japanese attack on Russia would create a second front for the European Axis. The importance, therefore, of immediate support to the Chinese is obvious to the Governments in Washington and London.

Another reason why it would be desirable to put Chinese needs on the list of priorities of the United Nations, was explained by President Roosevelt in his speech following his return to the United States from the Casablanca Conference. His actual words were : " We do not expect to spend the time it would take to bring Japan to final defeat merely by inching our way forward from island to island across the vast expanse of the Pacific. Great decisive actions will be taken against the Japanese to drive the invader from the soil of China. Important actions will be taken in the skies over China and over Japan itself." This is an unmistakable forecast of the strategy of the United Nations. The Japanese are to be driven out of the main-land of Asia, and then China will be a base for further operations against the Japanese islands themselves.

AN OFFENSIVE BASE.

From Chinese harbours a naval blockade of Japan can be established. From aerodromes in Eastern China the great industrial cities and naval dockyards of Japan can be attacked by air bombing. If, in the meantime, however, the Chinese have been forced, despite their heroic resistance and determination, to capitulate, these necessary facilities would not be available.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek has mobilised and trained seven million soldiers. They are lightly armed, principally with rifles, machine-guns and light mortars of their own manufactaure. They have proved themselves admirable fighting men, and have beaten the Japanese in open battle on many

occasions. If adequately armed and equipped they could, without doubt, drive the invaders into the sea. They are suffering badly from disease and hunge. as well as from lack of equipment and shortage of motor transport petrol These are grave handicaps. It is becoming increasingly difficult, since the closing of the Burma Road and the blockading of other sources of supply, to distribute such food as is available to the Chinese armies in the field.

The re-conquest of Burma from the Japanese invaders will probably be a long process. The Japanese are skilful at defensive tactics and in jungle country, as shown by operations in Papua and the Solomon Islands.

The only practical means of giving greater support to Chinese resistance is by greatly increasing the fleet of transport planes which fly between Northern India and China. Their journey takes them across mountains 17,000 ft. high and the modern transport plane can carry 2-ton howitzers (as was shown in the Papuan campaign), lorries, jeeps, fighting aeroplanes, light tanks–all but the heaviest equipment needed in modern warfare.

JAPAN'S WEAKNESS.

Japan is an island power ; yet this is both her strength and her weakness, for she is dependent on shipping for necessary imports of food and raw materials. Her shipping is under a great strain and has suffered heavy losses. For the United Nations to defeat Japan, China must remain in the war at all costs. This is in the direct interest of the Chinese people themselves.

It is not improbable that, as a result of recent developments, the former strategy adopted by the United Nations of standing on the defensive against the Japanese, while concentrating all their available resourues for the quickest possible overthrow of the European Axis will be modified. It will be found necessary, if this is the case, to divert more of the great production of transport aeroplanes and munitions of all kinds now reaching flood to the support of the Chinese Nationalist armies.

SHAM OF SINO-JAPANESE CO-OPERATION.

(*The Daily Telegraph*).

Each succeeding utterance of the Japanese Fuehrer, General Tojo, pays more wonderful compliments to the other end of the Axis. He promised last summer that he would soon join hands with them "and deal the final blow to their enemies."

The spring edition of this pledge assured Germany and Italy that they are pushing back all enemy offensives with "unshakeable morale and military

strength", and collaboration between them and Japan was still increasing. With the courtesy and the imitative genius of his race, he almost equals the European Axis leaders in his fervent efforts to persuade his countrymen that the United States and the British Commonwealth are quarrelling and will never agree.

As far as words can demonstrate loyalty, General Tojo only draws the line at applauding Hitler's Bolshevik bogey. When he deals with action, he makes it clear that the Japanese warlords have given up hope of anything from Germany and Italy and will do nothing for them.

The eyes of Japan's militarists are now concentrating on China. It may be said that they have been doing so for five and a half years, since the hopeful predecessor of General Tojo announced that "China must be beaten to her knees", but Tojo recently put out a revised version of that brag. The massacres, plundering, and devastation have all been in vain if the war is only "just starting."

Japan has now made a fundamental change of policy and now "all efforts of Britain and the United States to separate the new' China from Japan must fail."

General Tojo has just been inspecting the Japanese army in China, which is said still to number one million men after a year of continually frustrated and futile attacks. Nothing in the position offered him much comfort. Large areas of Japanese forces are immobilised by guerillas; where they have conquered territory they have made it a desert.

The method by which Tojo proposes to extricate his army from this morass is only the old hopeless sham of "Sino-Japanese co-operation." The puppet Government set up at Nanking under President Wang Ching-Wei by the Japanese is the "New China" which never will desert Tokyo.

As Wang and his fellow Quislings never had any power while Japanese arms were in the ascendant, their capacity to make a new China now is something less than dubious. Tojo may hope that his proposal will create divisiosn, weakening the stubborn resistance of the real China, the China of Chiang Kai-Shek; but that he is reduced to such a vain hope and such a stale device betrays the magnitude of the difficulties which, as he confessed, he sees ahead. **No cajolery will persuade the Chinese to cease their fight against Japan's hideous brutality. They will not surrender their airfields or let the Japanese army have freedom of manoeuvre. They know that the Japanese strength in ships and planes is going down every day and the American strength is increasing; they are well aware that Tojo knows it also and fears the consequences. China is assured of equipment and all forces necessary to punish the infamies of Japan; the Tokyo warlords have to read the writing on the wall.**

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXLI. (*Batch 6.*)

10- 4-43	Municipal Office .	6.00 p.m	
11 -4-43	Kilanilai ...	7.00	,,
,,	Kilanilai-Pudup-patti.	7.30	,,
12 -4-43	Perumanadu ...	7.00	,,
,,	Pulvayal ...	7.30	,,
13- 4-43	Sadayampatti ...	7.00	,,
13- 4-43	Oliyamangalam...	7.30 p.m.	
14- 4-43	Malaikkudippatti	7.00	,,
,,	Tulaiyanur ...	7.30	,,
15- 4-43	Malampatti ...	7.00	,,
,,	Perambur ...	7.30	,,
16- 4-43	Alavayal ...	7.00	,,
,,	Ammankurichchi	7.30	,,

LECTURE CXLII (*Batch 1*).

17- 4-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.	
18- 4-43	Puvarasakudi ...	7.00	,,
,,	Venkatakulam ...	7.30	,,
19- 4-43	Perungalur ...	7.00	,,
,,	Adanakkottai ...	7.30	,,
20- 4-43	Kiranur ...	7.00	,,
,,	Nanjur ...	7.30	,,
21- 4-43	Mirattunilai ...	7.00 p.m.	
,,	Arimalam ...	7.30	,,
22- 4-43	Pungudi ...	7.00	,,
,,	Satyamangalam...	7.30	,,
23- 4-43	Udayalippatti ...	7.00	,,
,,	Killukottai ...	7.30	,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

10— 4—43	Vettamviduthi.
11— 4—43	Tittanviduthi.
12— 4—43	Arimalam.
13— 4—43	Konapattu.
14— 4—43	Rayavaram.
15— 4—43	Kulipirai.
16— 4—43	Pudukkottai.
17— 4—43	Tirumayyam.
18— 4—43	Marudankoneviduthi.
19— 4—43	Mullangurichchi.
20— 4—43	Konapattu.
21— 4—43	Kilanilai Puduppatti.
22— 4—43	Alangudi.
23— 4—43	Pappapatti.

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